

EPISODE #138
August 31, 1995

The Valley COMIC N ♦ E ♦ W ♦ S

ENTERTAINMENT LISTINGS!!

STORIES:

USA TODAY
THAT'S WHAT I HEAR
AS THE WORLD SQUIRMS
IN THE SWIM

INSIDE

FEATURES:

DOONESBURY,
CALVIN & HOBBS,
VIEWS OF THE WORLD,
THIS MODERN WORLD
TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT,
L.A. CUCARACHA,
MIKE CHRISMAN,
EARTHWEEK,
LEOLD,
KUPER



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Leold

by Roger & Salem Salloom

My friend Benny came to my front door today. He was wearing almost the same clothes I was. But he's a loser.

Sure, I have little things that I repeat over and over in my head, but Benny,..... well Benny has real demons that yell at him.... You should have seen him yesterday at my door.

His eyes were bloodshot, his forehead sweaty and he was making fists with his hands. He was wearing the same socks as I was, and the souls of his feet hurt.

He should admit himself into a hospital or take a college course or something.

I think I'll introduce Benny to my last girlfriend. That'll have the same effect as a week in the psych ward.... but it will cost a little more.



A ton of local students are leaving the Happy Valley and going to far-away lands, there to begin their adventures in higher education.

What better parting gift can a loving friend or parent give a homesick student than a gift subscription to THE VALLEY COMIC NEWS (at a special student rate of a measley \$18?)



PAGE THREE

by Mike Chrisman



I was visiting recently in our nation's capital (motto: "Five T-shirts for \$10") — specifically in the Capitol building itself — and as any observant travel writer will, I immediately noted several quirky and dangerous characteristics that the inexperienced traveler should approach only with extreme caution. These quirks and dangers are presented below, in the hope that inexperienced travelers will be so grateful they will buy my book.

The first alarming observation I made in Washington, D.C., is that the Capitol building is *surrounded* by old concrete and bronze Japanese artifacts — light fixtures, archways, and boxes that look like reliquaries — lurking at every entrance. I am clueless about what these objects are, but I suspect they were donated long ago by the Japanese in a generous attempt to reach across the centuries with this timeless message: "Buy Luxury Nissans."

The next feature to beware is the paving stones on the second level of the Capitol building. When the inattentive traveler walks on them, they *wobble*. Not only wobble, they *grind* against each other with a hollow, forlorn, grating groan, as if they've totally given up on negotiating a solution in Bosnia.

Then — if the visitor makes it inside the Capitol without tripping over a paving stone — the Congressional galleries are open to one's purview. During my visit these were probably not too dangerous, since the Congresspeople were all home on vacation. The galleries are pretty high off the floor, though. The Senate's main attraction is about a hundred small, wooden desks, which are undoubtedly way too small for all the large-buttod codgers sitting in them. But it's OK, because the Senate is a deliberative body.

In the House, on the other hand, the traveler spies row after row of benches — and *no desks*. Nowhere for a brash young legislator to file the bill on sorghum subsidies until he needs it. Nowhere to stash the wad of cash the tobacco lobbyist just forked over. Nowhere even to store the Christian Coalition Rolodex™. And suddenly it becomes crystal clear: the Senate is a deliberative body; the House is an *impulsive* body. I'm not sure how the House's lack of desks impacts decisions on Bosnia or sorghum subsidies, but it certainly does. I mean, how would *you* feel?

A third disturbing aspect of our Capitol is that the dome is *not* made of concrete, like it looks in all the pictures. Instead, it's made out of cast iron, and *painted*. I thought this was a real gyp, until I learned that it's 9 million pounds of cast iron, which is approximately the weight of Saturn. If it weren't safely shaped into the Capitol dome, 9 million pounds of white cast iron would make a lot of lawn furniture. So I'm glad it's where it is.

A final characteristic that surely unnerves even the seasoned Capitol visitor has to do with statuary. You see, many years ago each American state was invited to send two larger-than-life statues to stand in the Capitol rotunda. States did this readily, the better to honor their most notable citizens. Massachusetts, for example, chose John Winthrop (the first governor) and Samuel Adams (the inventor of beer). The only problem was, each statue weighed in at about two tons. If they'd put more than twenty of these things in the rotunda, the floor would've collapsed quicker than that last guy Mike Tyson hit. So they strewed them randomly around the Capitol, in places where even the *tour guides* can't find them, and so far the rotunda is still standing. Another really good example of government planning. I have *no* idea why that dome hasn't fallen down, though.

This concludes the wary traveler's guide to our Capitol building. Despite the potential dangers, I'm still glad I went, because there are plusses. The best example of a plus was when I overheard one foreigner in the House visitors' gallery whisper to her daughter, "It's not like other Parliaments; they don't have food fights." Pretty much sums it up for me.

The Valley Comic News

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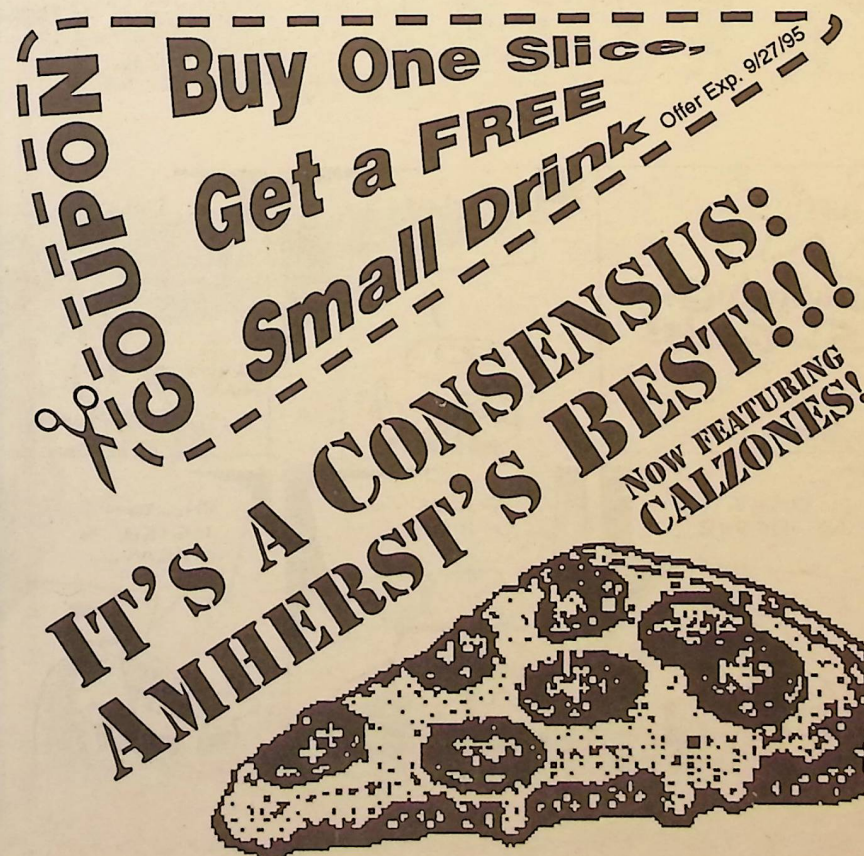
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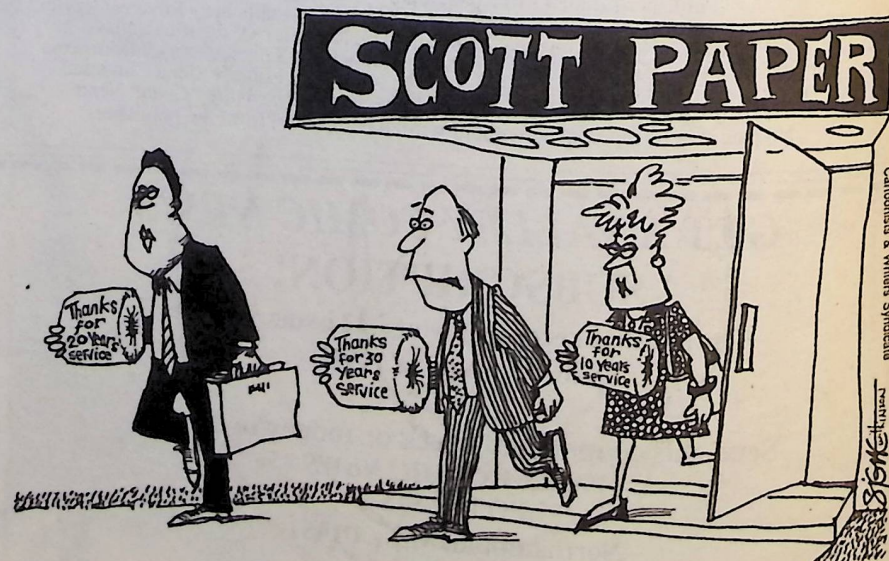
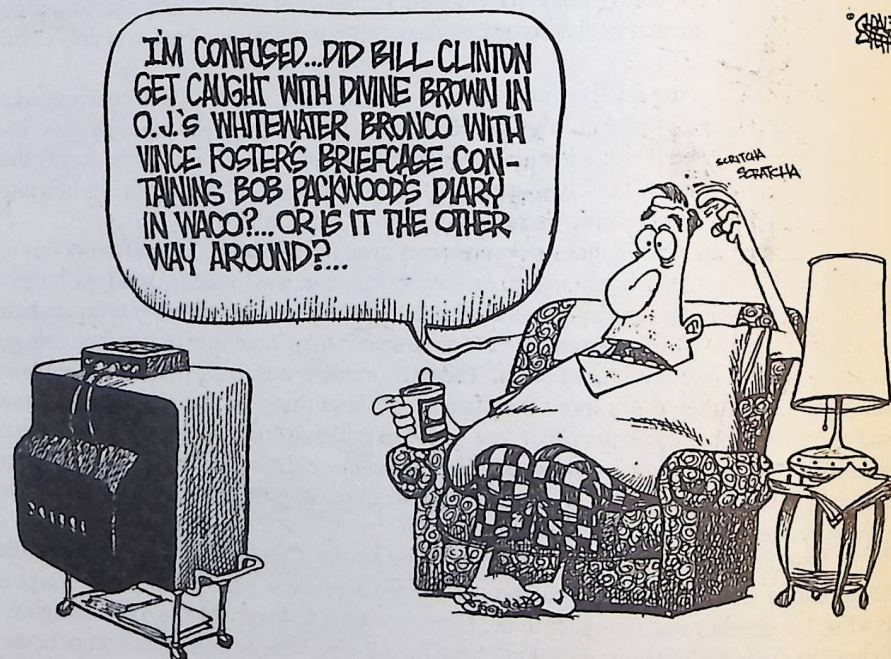
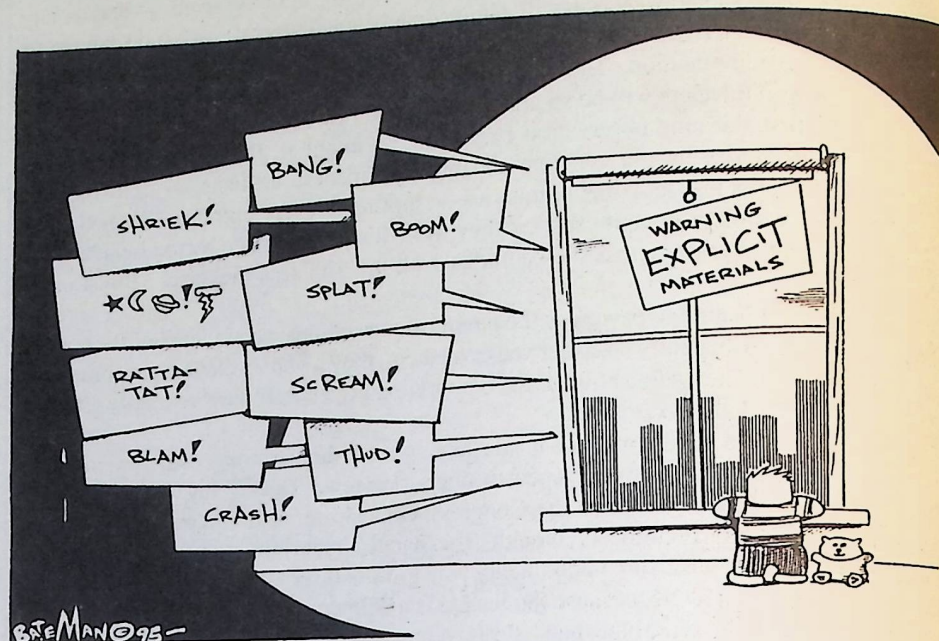
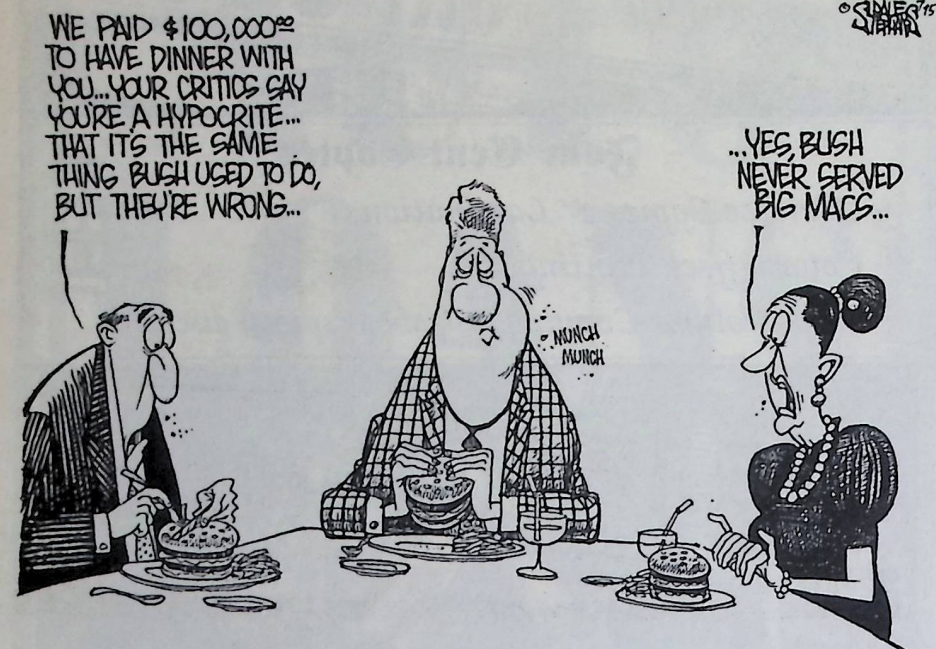


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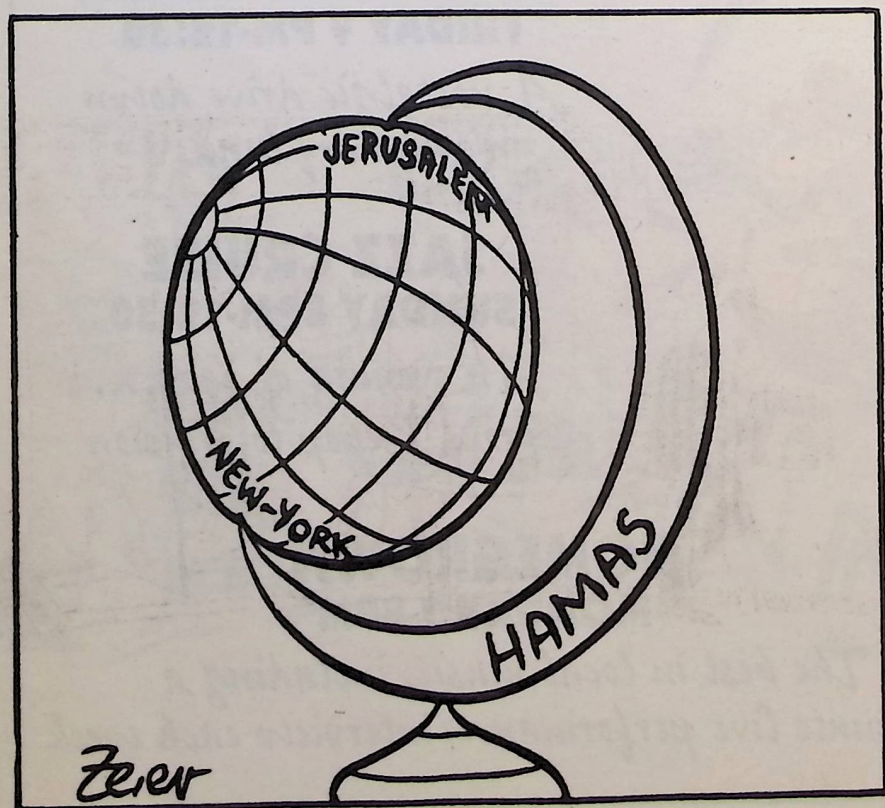
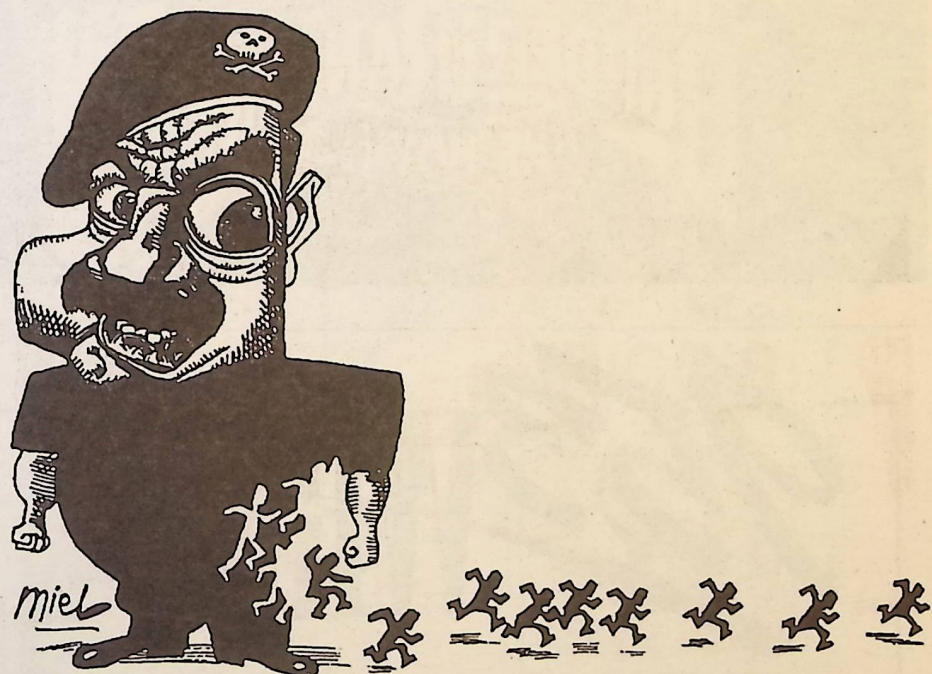
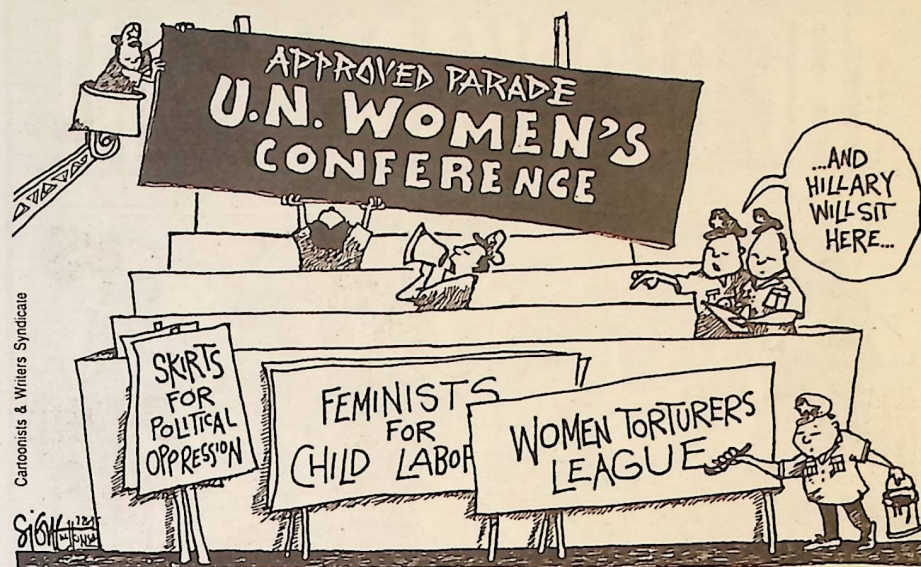
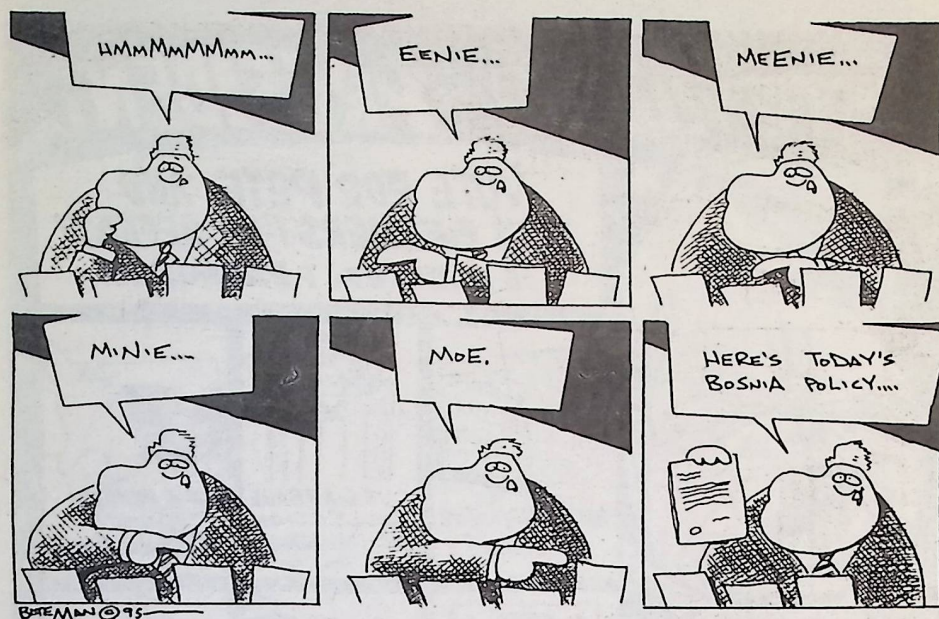
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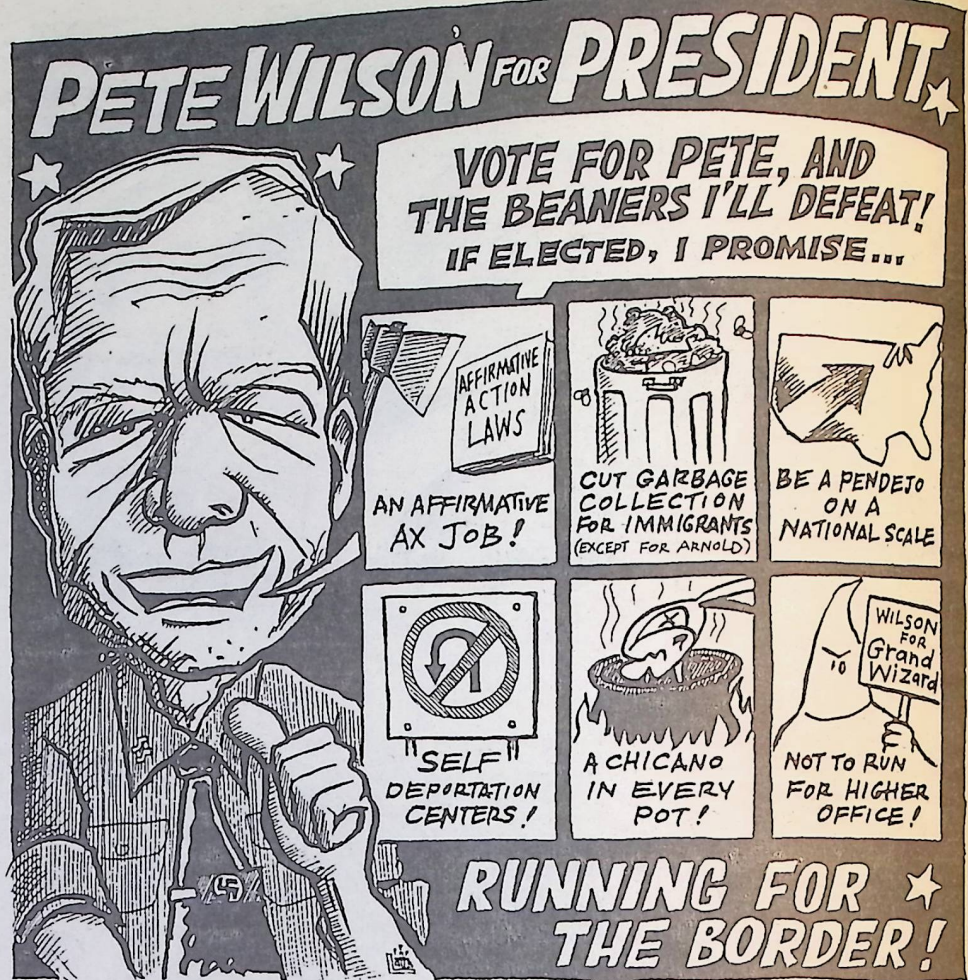
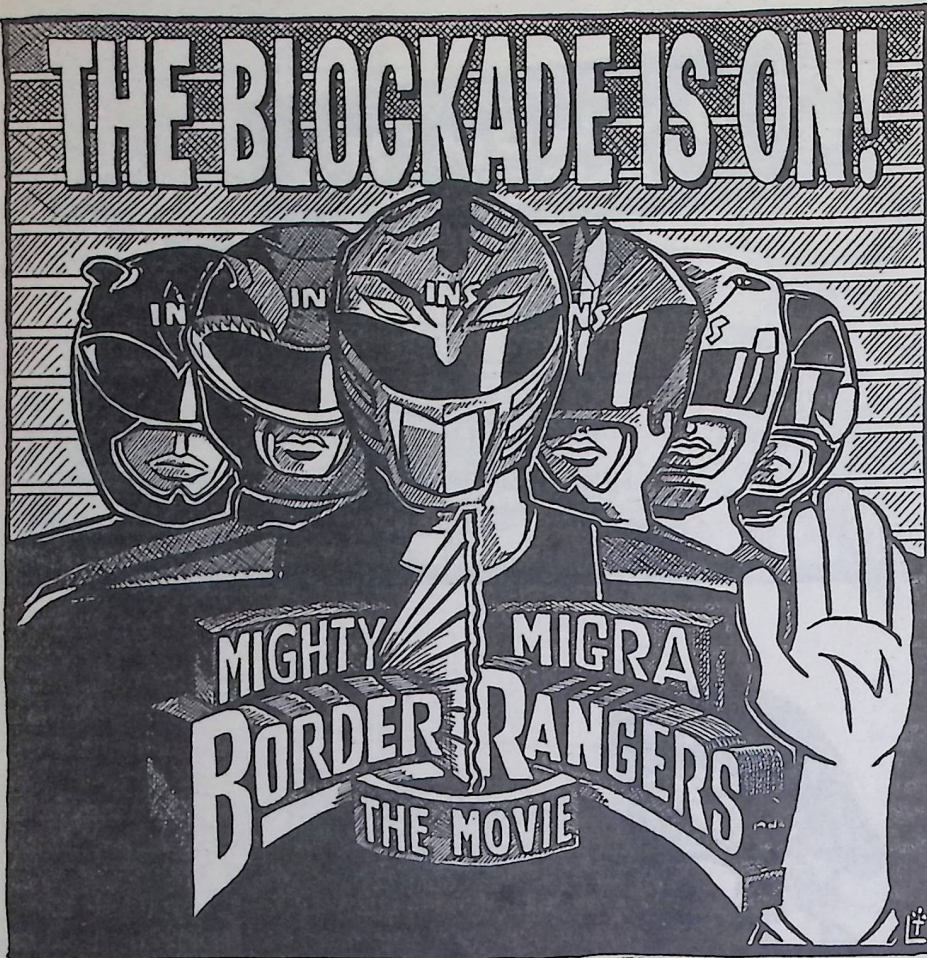
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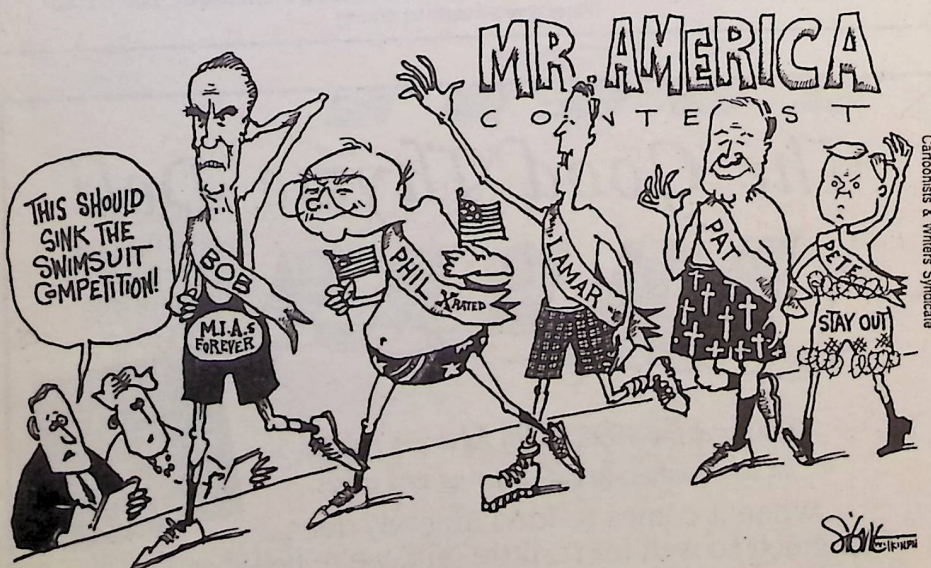
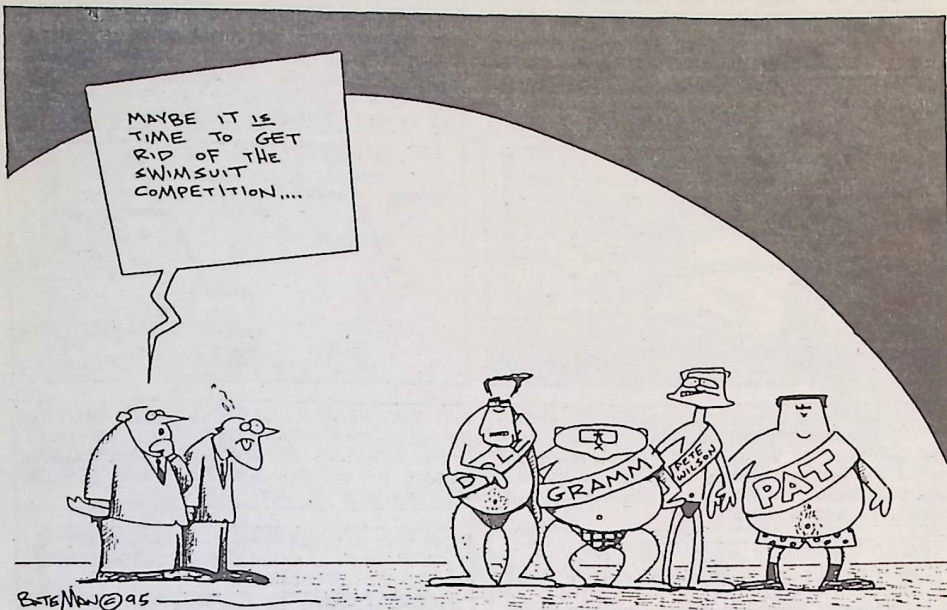
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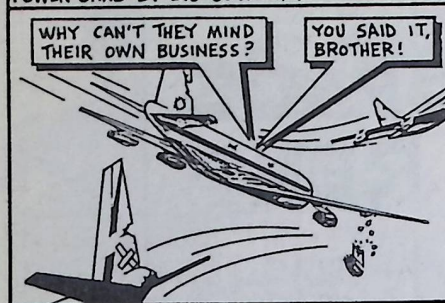
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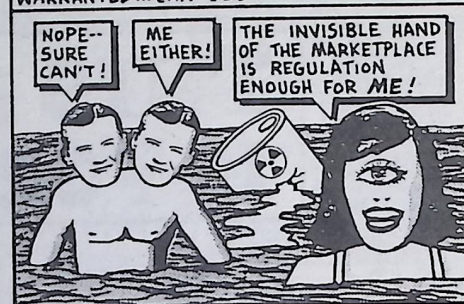
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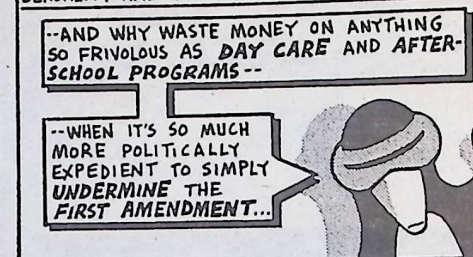


THIS MODERN WORLD

THE ORIGINAL INTENT OF THE SMITHSONIAN'S ENOLA GAY EXHIBIT WAS TO EXAMINE THE MORAL AMBIGUITY INHERENT IN HAVING DROPPED THE WORLD'S FIRST ATOMIC BOMB...OF COURSE, THIS TURNED OUT NOT TO BE A POPULAR NOTION AMONG ARBITERS OF RIGHT-WING CORRECTNESS...



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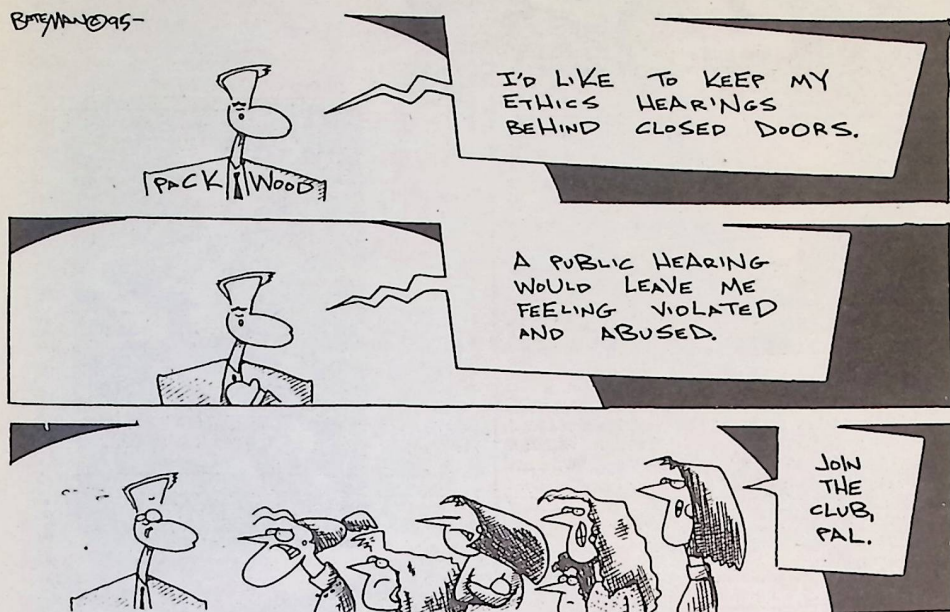
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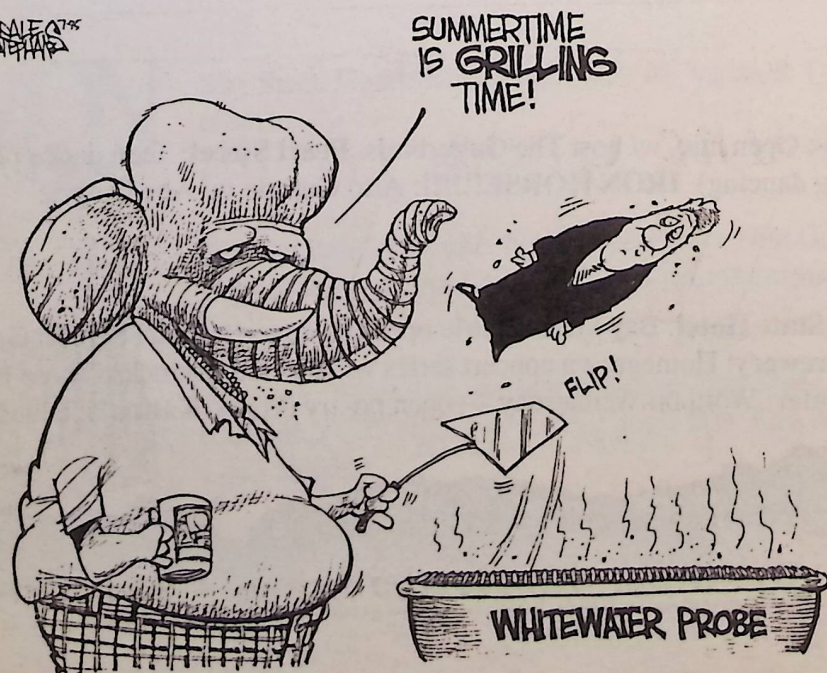
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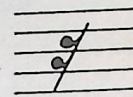
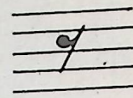
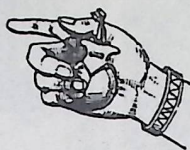
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THU
THIRTYONE

Katina's: Selectrocution **Seven O's:** DJ Stephan Warren **Pearl Street:** 18+ dance music by Spin, Inc. **Alley Oops:** Karaoke w/ a theme (best rock) **North Star:** Tropical Party Night, plus darts tournament **Peking Garden/Humorworks:** Latin Nights Party **Bay State Hotel:** Star Ghost Dog

FRI
ONE

Pearl Street: Art Steele Blues Band, plus Retro night, w/ DJ Dennis **Bay State Hotel:** Equalites **North Star:** Dance party w/ DJ Betsey **Peking Garden/Humorworks:** Latin Nights Party **Alley Oops:** 2nd Nature **Katina's:** K-Funk All Stars **Look Park, Pines Theater:** Alison Krauss & Union Station

SAT
TWO

Katina's: Selectrocution **North Star:** Dance Nite w/ DJ Steven **Bay State Hotel:** Rock Gods From Chicopee **Pearl Street:** Sam Black Church, Black Train Jack, plus modern rock dance party

SUN
THREE

Northampton Brewery: The Mess, Angry Johnny & The Killbillies **Bay State Hotel:** Lifter-Puller, New Radiant Storm King (unplugged) **North Star:** Girlz Nite Out

MON
FOUR

Bay State Hotel: Blue Monday, w/ Ed Vadas & The Fabulous Heavyweights (free!) **Fire & Water:** Open stage **North Star:** C & W Nite w/ DJ Cathy

TUE
FIVE

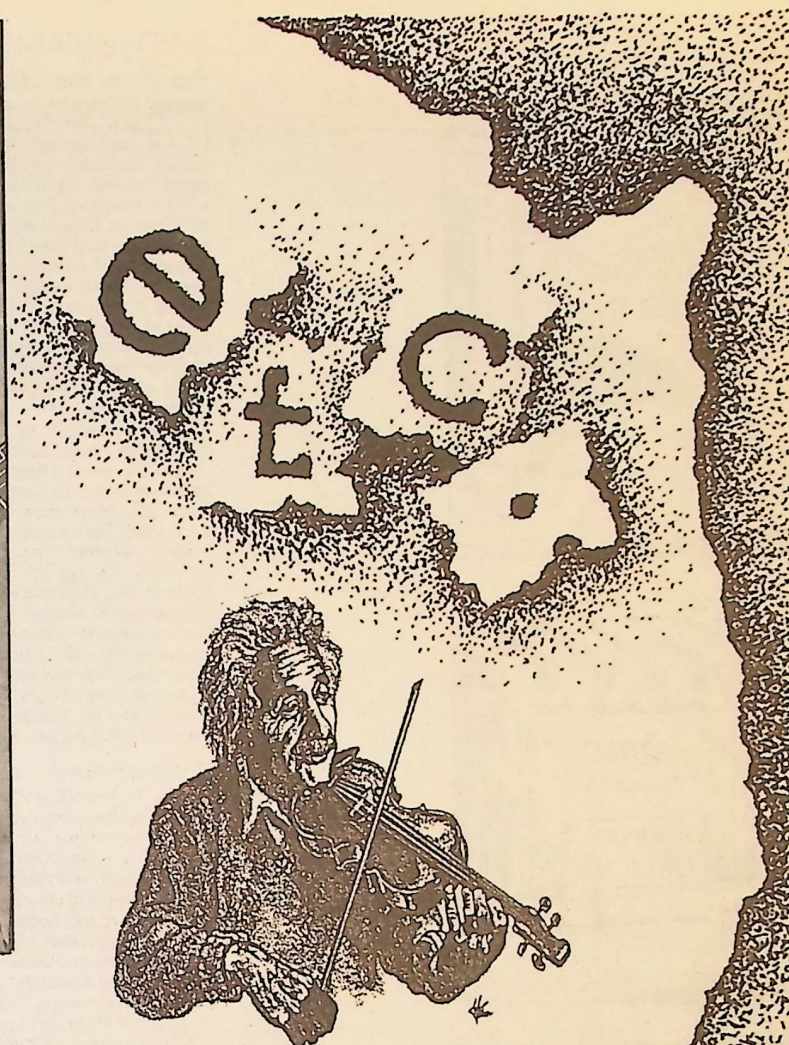
Hadley Pub: open mic **Northampton Brewery:** Open mic, w/ host The Gutterbirds **Pearl Street:** Teen dance party **North Star:** Boyz Nite Out w/ DJ Steven (swing dancing) **IRON HORSE!!!!!!:** Arlo Guthrie w/ Abe Guthrie (GRAND OPENING PARTY!!)

WED
SIX

Iron Horse: Arlo Guthrie w/ Abe Guthrie **Bay State Hotel:** Bay State electric open (no cover!) **Pearl Street:** Gay Night — w/ special guest DJs **Northampton Brewery:** Homegrown concert series w/ Big Bad Bollocks, Three Blind Mice **North Star:** Pool Tournament **Fire & Water:** Word on Wednesday — open poetry (7pm) **Katina's:** Blues Jam w/ Mark Nomad



Late August, posing for publicity photos



THU
SEVEN

Pearl Street: 18+ dance party, w/ Nick Danger **Alley Oops:** Karaoke outside **North Star:** Tropical Party Night w/ DJ CPR, plus darts tournament **Katina's:** Selectrocution **Iron Horse:** NRBQ, Popa Chubby

FRI
EIGHT

Katina's: K-Funk All Stars **Bay State Hotel:** Trailer Park **Peking Garden/Humorworks:** Latin Nights Party **Iron Horse:** Luther (Guitar Jr.) Johnson **North Star:** 18+ Dance Party w/ DJ Betsey **Pearl Street:** Malevolent Creation, plus Retro night w/ DJ Dennis

SAT
NINE

Katina's: Selectrocution **Iron Horse:** David Wilcox, Cosy Sheriden **Pearl Street:** Max Creek, plus modern rock dance party **Peking Garden/Humorworks:** Latin Nights Party **North Star:** 21+ Dance Nite

SUN
TEN

Iron Horse: Cheryl Wheeler **North Star:** Girlz Nite Out — Tea Dance/Beer Blast/Bar-B-Q w/ Claire **Northampton Brewery:** Motley Kristofferson, Cocktail

MON
ELEVEN

Bay State Hotel: Blue Monday, w/ Ed Vadas & The Fabulous Heavyweights (free!) **Fire & Water:** Open Stage (8pm)

TUE
TWELVE

Hadley Pub: open mic **North Star:** Boyz Nite Out w/ DJ Steven **Pearl Street:** Teen dance party **Iron Horse:** Debbie Harry & the Jazz Passengers **Northampton Brewery:** open mic w/ host Mark Thomas

WED
THIRTEEN

Katina's: Blues Jam, w/ Mark Nomad **Bay State Hotel:** Bay State electric open (no cover) **Pearl Street:** Letters to Cleo, plus Gay Night, w/ special guest DJs **Fire & Water:** Word on Wednesday — open poetry (7pm) **Iron Horse:** Leon Russell

EARTHWEEK: A DIARY OF THE PLANET

Floods of the Century

Chinese People's Liberation Army troops evacuated almost one million people stranded by floodwaters along the Hun He River in north-eastern Liaoning Province. Flood and Drought Control Headquarters in Shenyang said 20 air force planes also dropped food and medical supplies to villagers trapped by floodwaters that covered 1.3 million acres of croplands and killed more than 60 people. About 20,000 soldiers continued evacuation of thousands of people trapped near the city of Liaoyang.

Heavy monsoon rains caused more flooding in the northern Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir. Up to 26 inches of rain fell during the past week, and more than 70 people were killed. Houses collapsed and bridges washed away in the Himalayan state of Himachal Pradesh, and 31 people were killed.

Hundreds of people were forced to climb trees for safety as floodwaters overflowed the banks of the Ochozogo River south of Managua, Nicaragua. Five villages have been isolated from the outside world and the death toll is not yet known.

Volcanic Fury

Thousands of Filipinos fled as steaming rivers of mud flowed from Mt. Pinatubo. The villages of San Juan and Santo Niño were badly damaged, but there were no reports of casualties.

Eruption of Mt. Soputan on the remote Indonesian island of Sulawesi killed one person as volcanic mud and debris slid down the sides of the mountain. There were no other reports of damage.

A small village on the island of Monserrat was evacuated because of volcanic activity from Chance's Peak. Officials said the evacuation was precautionary.

Authorities in Columbia continued to warn that Nevada del Ruiz may

soon erupt. Seismic activity near the volcano increased during the week.

Earthquakes

A powerful earthquake struck the north coast of Chile and killed three people but caused remarkably little damage. The tremor was followed by hundreds of aftershocks. Other earth movements were felt in the Philippines, Peru, Japan, Romania, Nevada and Alaska, Gulf of California, Kuril Is., Argentina, and Tonga.

Hurricane Erin

The governor of Louisiana declared a state of emergency and thousands of people evacuated low-lying areas of New Orleans as Hurricane Erin approached the Gulf Coast. Earlier, Erin made landfall in Florida with 85-mph winds, left two people dead, five missing and one million without electricity. Erin was also blamed for sinking two vessels.

Locust Invasion

Locusts have infested at least 427,000 acres of farmland in China's central Henan Province. Farmers were using pesticides and diesel oil to fight the pests.

Swarms of desert locusts also appeared in western Sudan. The newspaper *Al-Rai Al-Khir* said the pests were now along the border with Chad and flying westward in the direction of Khartoum.

Meteor Shower

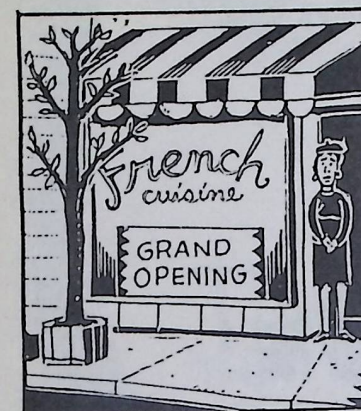
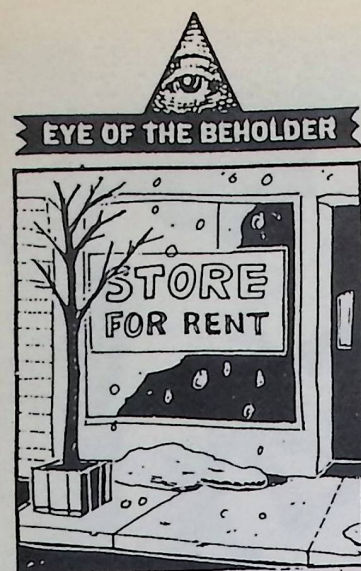
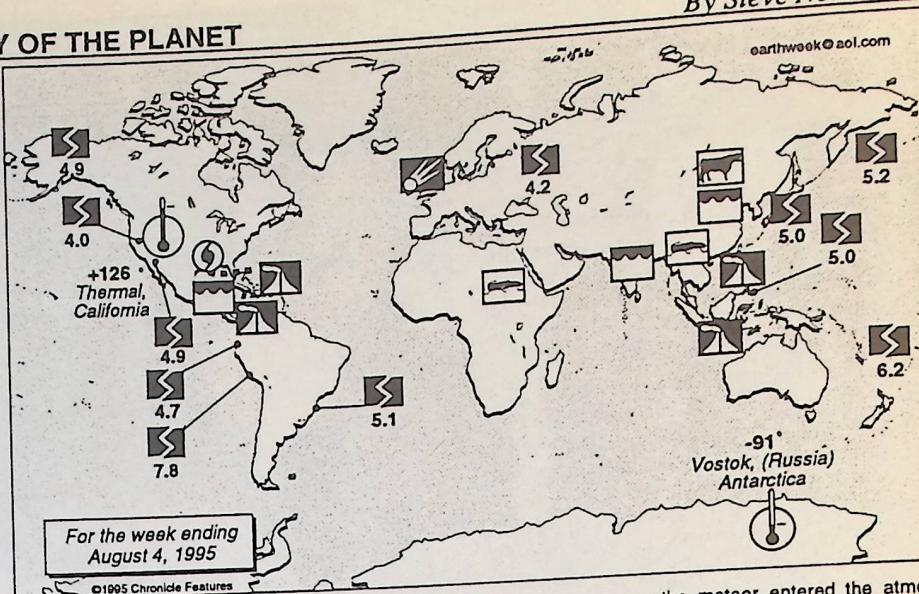
British police were inundated with thousands of telephone calls as the tail end of a meteor shower known as the Aquarids lit the night sky. The London Weather Center reported that most of the meteor disintegrated upon entry into the atmosphere, but parts of it may have landed in either the Lincolnshire area or the North Sea. Some witness reported hearing a loud noise

as the meteor entered the atmosphere. Neil Smith, an eyewitness from South Shields, said: "We looked up into the sky and saw a streak of light. The brightness was like Wembley Stadium."

Sheep Suicide

Twenty herdsmen in Inner Mongolia spent almost three hours attempting to save 530 sheep and goats that tried to commit suicide by jumping into a lake. Xinhua news agency said 281 sheep were saved, but the rest of the sheep and goats drowned. The news agency said the suicidal sheep began spinning in the water as they began to sink. Others were pulled to shore but tried to jump back into the water. Chinese scientists are investigating the strange case.

Additional Sources: British Meteorological Office, U.S. Climate Analysis Center, U.S. Earthquake Information Center and the World Meteorological Organization.



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Tome mucho cafe, fume un Buen cigarro, y no se ocupe.
 (Drink a lotta coffee, smoke a good cigar, and don't fret yourself.)
 - The World's Oldest Peruvian, circa aet. 165

Seems like good advice to us - but let's get right to the cigar.
 (Although our coffee is damn good too.)

On Wednesday, September 6, The Squires' will be sponsoring a special cigar night with the Brick-Hanauer company.


Marc Moss is one of a very few Americans trained in Honduras in the art of hand-rolling cigars. He is skilled, knowledgeable of tobacco lore, and charming.

Marc will be at the Squires' to demonstrate the art, answer questions and handroll a cigar for everyone in attendance.

We'll start at 9:00 pm.


Come for dinner before; one shouldn't smoke on an empty stomach.
 call for reservations 413.268.7222

Summer's Heat


 Extreme heat and blazing summer sun sparked a new round of wildfires in the western U.S., northern Mexico and parts of North Africa. Local officials in the city of Mexicali said that 10 people had died from heatstroke in northern Baja California where the mercury soared to 125 degrees.

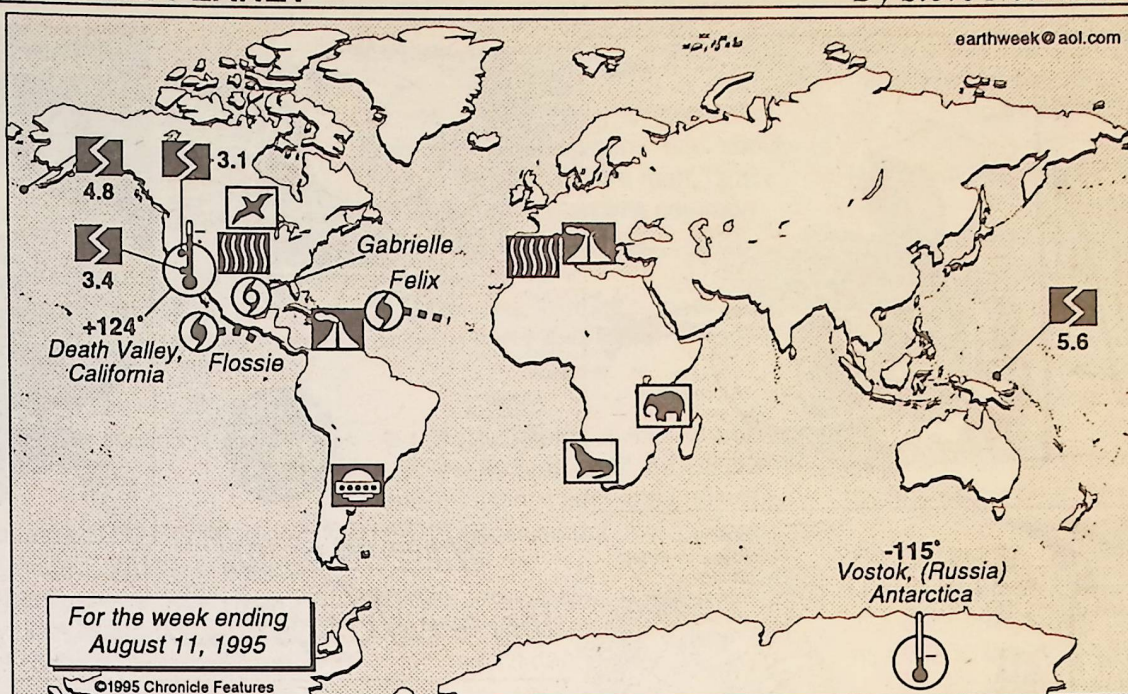
In Europe, the heat claimed the lives of a dozen people, and was so intense in Spain that it melted the wax honeycombs inside about 4,000 beehives in the provinces of Cordoba and Seville. Most of the colonies were destroyed when the queen bees died.

Austral Sighting


 A flight crew for Aerolineas Argentinas, and aviation officials on the ground, observed a luminous object that approached the aircraft as it was about to land at Bariloche airport, about 870 miles from Buenos Aires. Flight captain Jorge Polanco told reporters that all of the lights in and around the airport went out just as the object departed and he was about to land. Control tower personnel reported all of their instruments started behaving strangely at about the same time. Ground observers said the UFO appeared to have shining lights on its belly.

Mass Migrations

 This coming fall's migration of ducks and other waterfowl in North America could be the largest since the 1970s, according to biologists at Ducks Unlimited, an organization that promotes conservation primarily for the purpose of hunting. Chief biologist Jeff Nelson said in Memphis, Tenn., that abundant water and lush vegetation in the prairies and other breeding grounds probably means that the annual fall flight could reach 83-90 million birds.




Volcanoes


 The elderly and sick living around the flanks of Montserrat's Chance's Peak were evacuated to tent cities set up in the north of the tiny island. The ancient volcano has rumbled with plumes of ash since mid-July.

Officials in Italy assured the population around Mount Vesuvius that a magnitude 3.1 earthquake beneath the mountain's crater was not a sign of an impending eruption.


Tropical Storms

 Hurricane Flossie formed in the warm waters off the Mexican coast and briefly threatened the southern tip of Baja California with storm-force winds. The Texas-Mexico border region experienced high tides, strong winds and heavy rain from tropical storm Gabrielle as it moved ashore south of the border. Hurricane Felix strengthened over the open waters of the mid-Atlantic.


Seal Cull

 The Namibia government opened its coast to what one group calls "the cruellest seal hunt in the world." More than 4,000 full-grown seals and 13,000 pups are open game to the club and rifles of legal hunters, according to the International Fund for Animal Welfare. Last year, starvation caused by a climatic shift killed more than 120,000 of the estimated 550,000 seals living along the southwest African coast. Fisheries Minister Abraham Iyambo said he saw no reason why a quick death from the hunters was any worse than lingering death by starvation.

Earthquakes

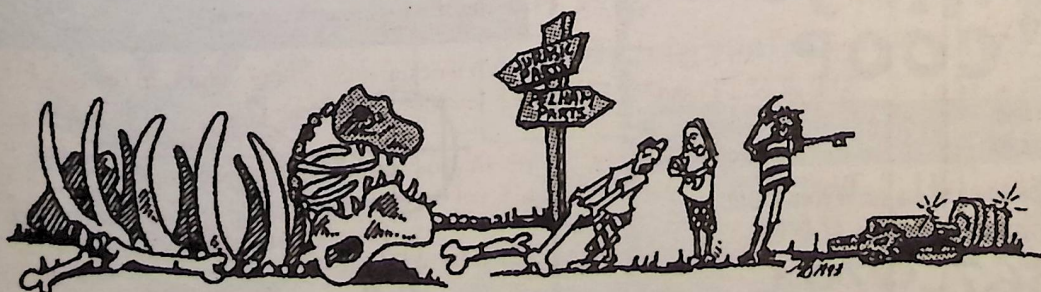
 A mild earthquake rattled the California town of Santa Barbara but caused no significant damage or injuries. Quakes were also felt along the California-Nevada border, the Caroline Islands and the Aleutian Islands.

Aquatic Pachyderms

 Residents of coastal Kenya were panicked by a maritime invasion of swimming elephants, an animal that has a reputation in the country for being far deadlier than lions or crocodiles. The latest clash between humans and the elephants occurred when the animals plunged into the Indian Ocean and headed for an island in the Lamu Archipelago, a little more than a mile offshore. The daily *Standard* newspaper reported that "they sank beneath the surface and raised their trunks above the water to breathe as they swam across the channel to Mada Island." There they uprooted coconut palms and mango orchards, as well as other crops grown on the island. Officials tried to calm the farmers, saying that this has been a regular migration route for the pachyderms for centuries.

Additional Sources: U.S. Climate Analysis Center, U.S. Earthquake Information Center and the World Meteorological Organization.

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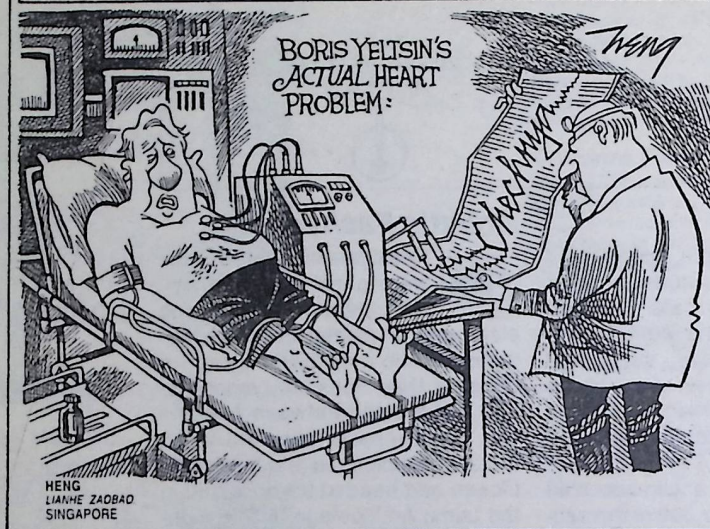
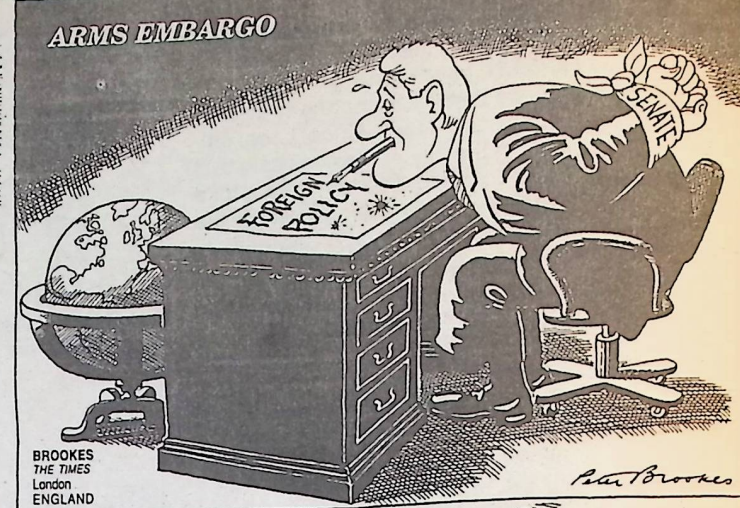


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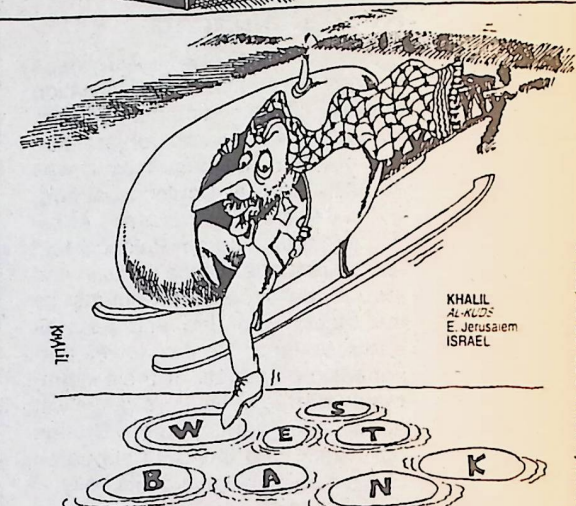
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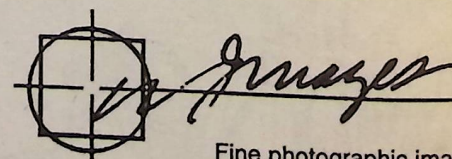
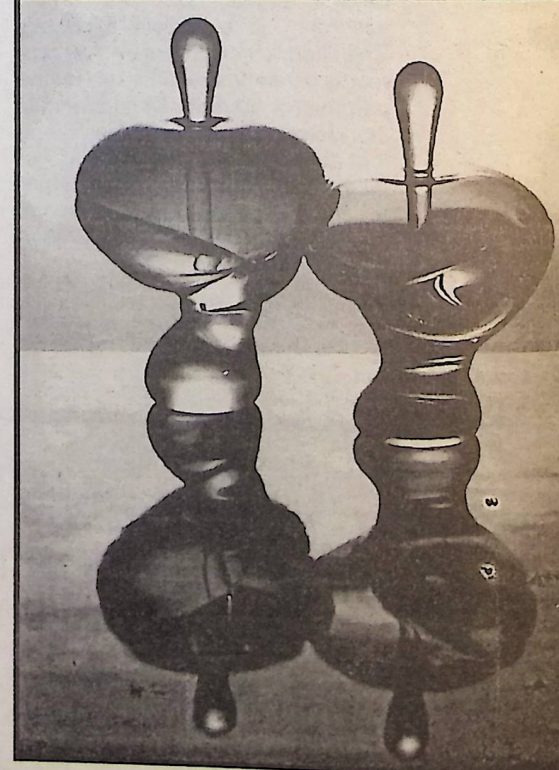
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TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT by L.M. Boyd

Q. How long does it take a speedy experienced igloo-maker to make an igloo for two?

A. About 45 minutes.

The word "biscuit" comes from the French for "cooked twice." Since when are biscuits cooked twice? Since they went to sea. Biscuits were cooked twice so they'd keep longer aboard ships.

An ordinance of Willowdale, Ore., prohibits profanity during sex.

Grandma Moses completed 25 paintings in the year she turned 100.

The cockroach is fastidious. If you touch one with your fingertip, it will clean itself frantically to get the humany gunk off.

Claim is a pro basketball player runs farther in two games than does a pro football player in an entire season.

Market researchers report the No. 1 beverage nationwide is beer.

Eyes of the Mount Rushmore presidents are 11 feet wide.

Q. What was the first dance that allowed a man to put his arms around a woman in public?

A. The waltz.

"Xerox" is Greek for "dry."

Laws were enforced in the 15th century to ensure that nobody except the nobility would carry handkerchiefs.

In Baltimore, you can't legally throw a bale of hay out a second-story window.

Again am asked why Germans are called "Germans." When their ancient forefathers entered battle, they shouted, yelled, hollered a lot, and the Gauls called them "Germani" from a Celtic word meaning "to shout."

Yes, an armadillo can be housebroken.

Q. It was Machiavelli, was it not, who said, "Power corrupts, and absolute power corrupts absolutely?"

A. Lord Acton said that. Machiavelli said, "Whoever desires to found a state and give it laws must start by assuming that all men are bad...."

What makes Mars red is that it's rusty.

It was not customary for people to sleep in private bedrooms until about 500 years ago. Before then, family members bundled in a common bedding corner.

In Newcastle, Wyo., it's specifically illegal to make love inside a walk-in freezer.

Geologists inform us that approximately 89 percent of the earth's surface — that's land and underseas — was spewed out of volcanoes.

In poker, don't forget, if you're dealt a pair, that increases odds your opponent is dealt a pair, too.

That word "hick" started out in the 1500s as a nickname for Richard. But it didn't get around to mean "country bumpkin" until about 1920. During the several decades before 1920, an unsophisticated provincial person was called a "jay." Whence "jaywalking."

Yes, the moon has moon-quakes.

All houseflies are born fully grown.

There's a difference between "poultry" and "fowl," you know. Poultry is domesticated.

Ice cream freezes at 27 degrees F.

Ninety-nine percent of everything alive on earth is vegetable, not animal.

In Spades, Ind., it's illegal to open a can of food by shooting it with a revolver.

Historians say the United States was the first nation on earth with a known birthday.

It was the custom of women in ancient Egypt to pluck all the hair from their heads and then buff their scalps to a high shine.

Q. Any good reason why the Koreans bury their dead in the mountains?

A. Long ago it was decreed they need their flatland for farming.

A recent study of widows and widowers shows the death of the husband does not seem to affect the longevity of his widow. But the death of the wife shortens considerably the longevity of the widower, unless he remarries.

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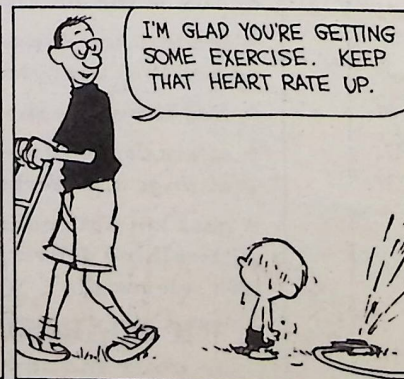
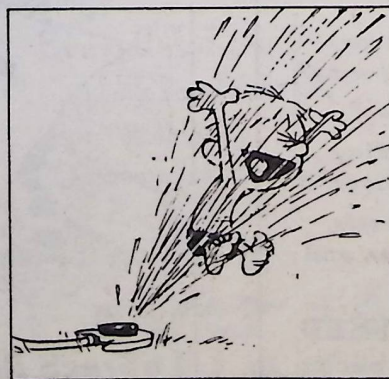
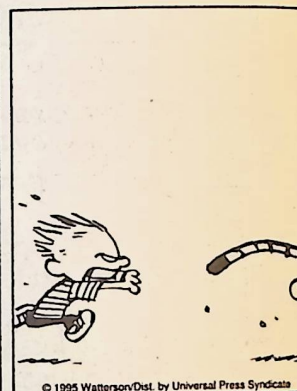
by BILL WATTERSON



I AM THE DOWNHILL TUMBLE AND ROLL CHAMP, KING OF THE TOAD FINDERS, CAPTAIN OF THE HIGH ALTITUDE TREE BRANCH VISTA CLUB, SECOND PLACE FINISHER IN THE 'ROUND THE YARD BACKWARD DASH, PREMIER BURPER STATE DIVISION, SODBUSTER AND WORM SCOUT FIRST ORDER, AND GENERALISSIMO OF THE MUD AND MAYHEM SOCIETY!



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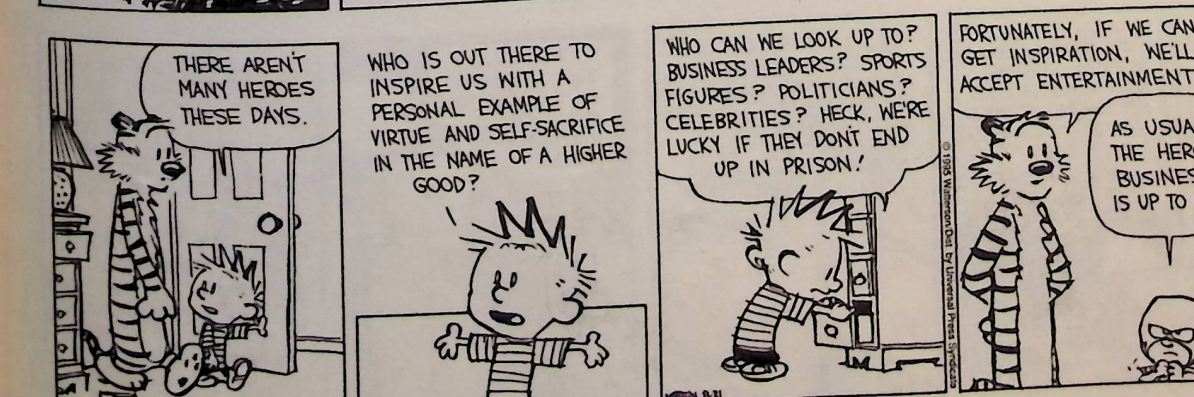
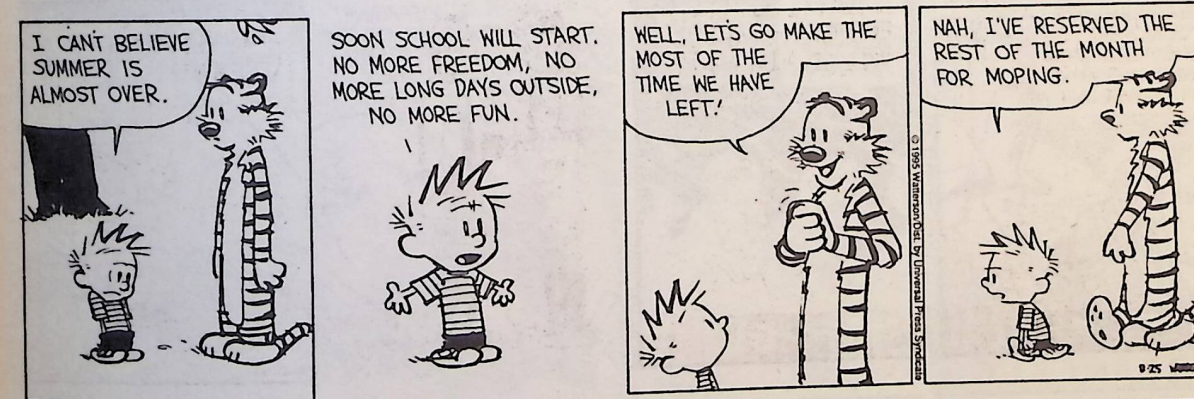
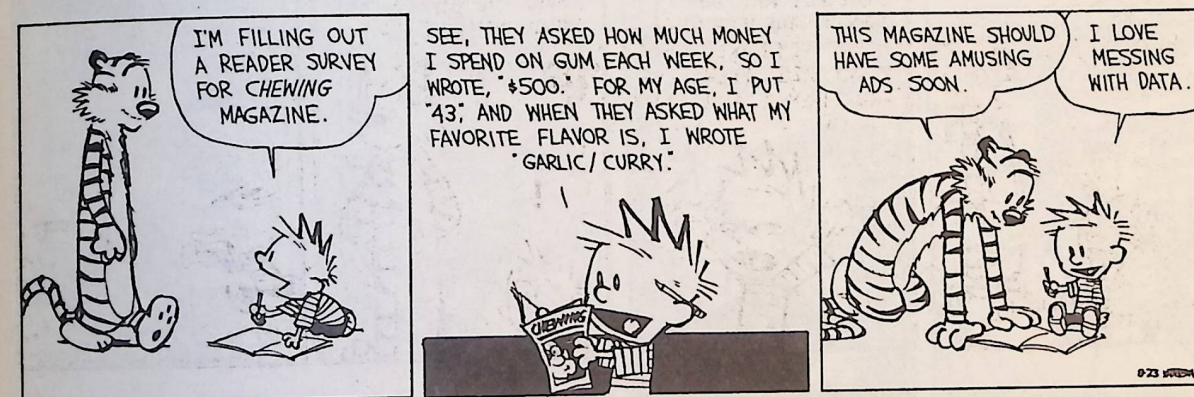
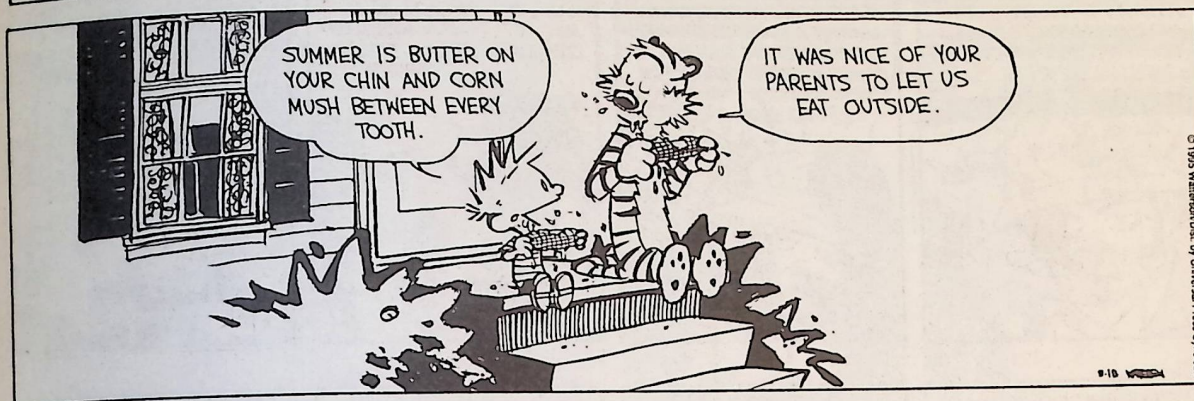
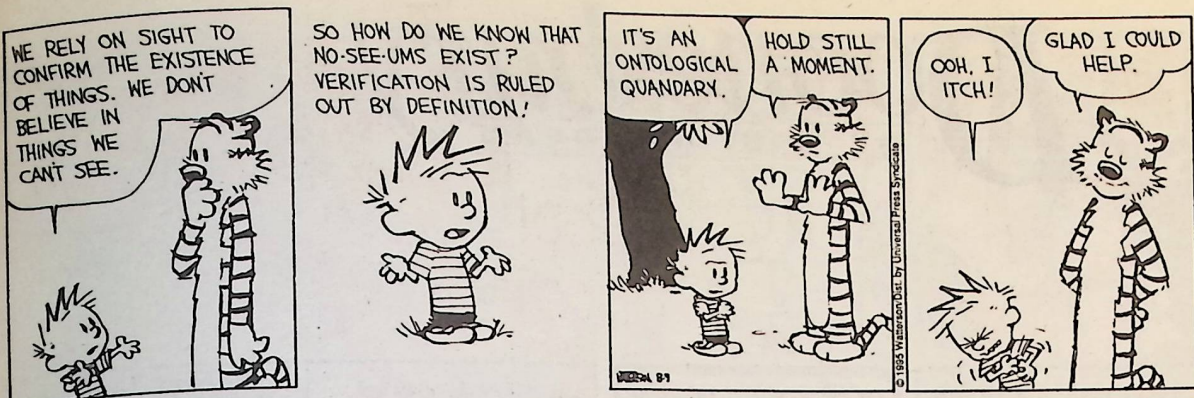


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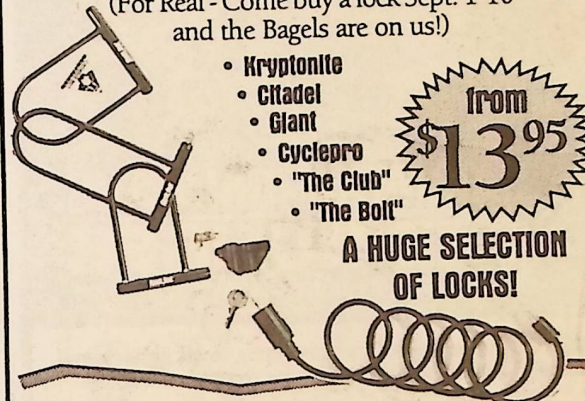
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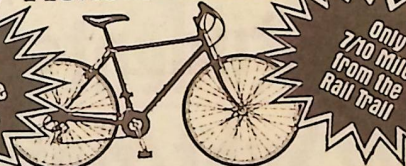
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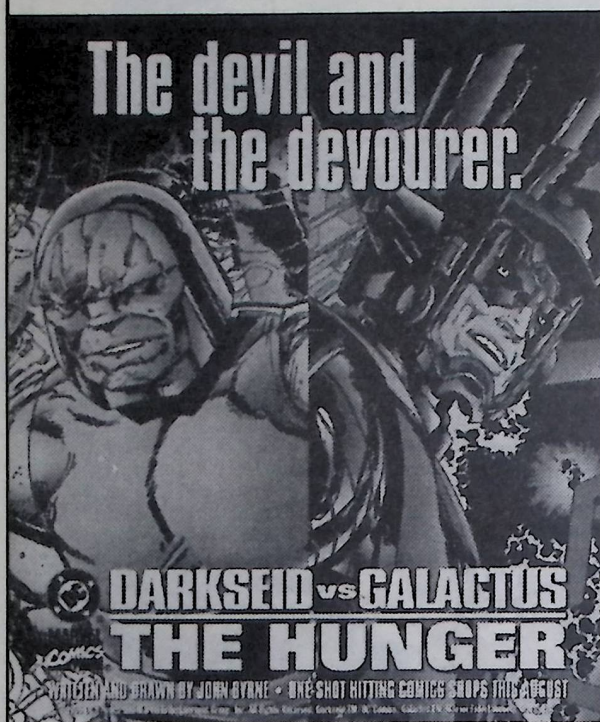


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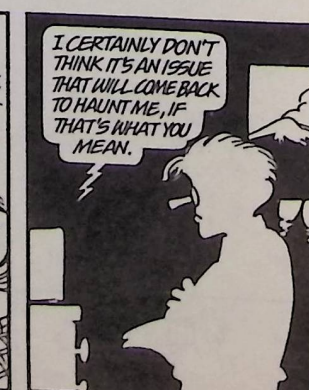
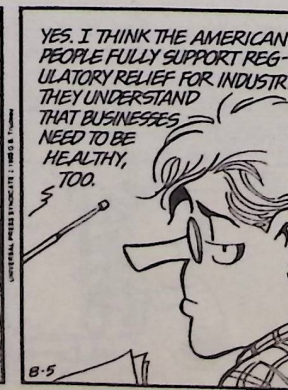
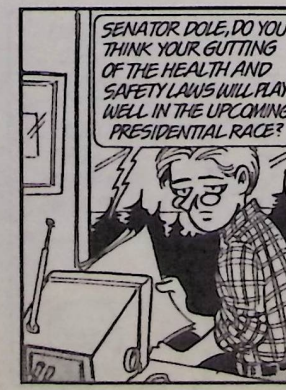
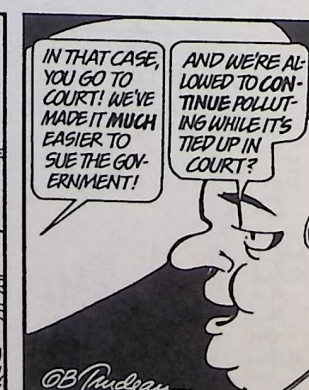
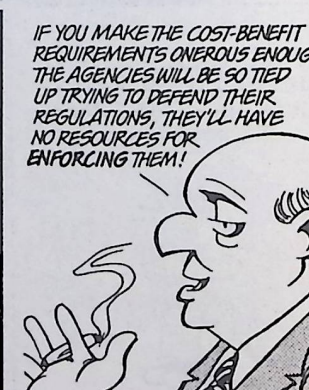
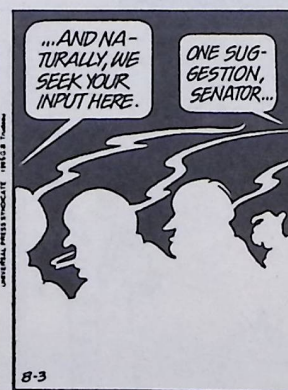
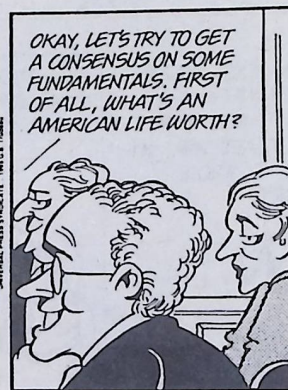
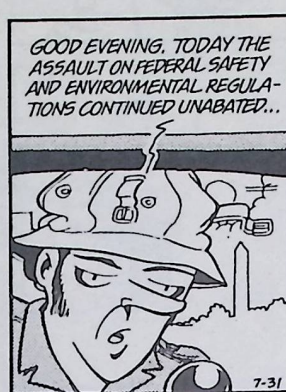
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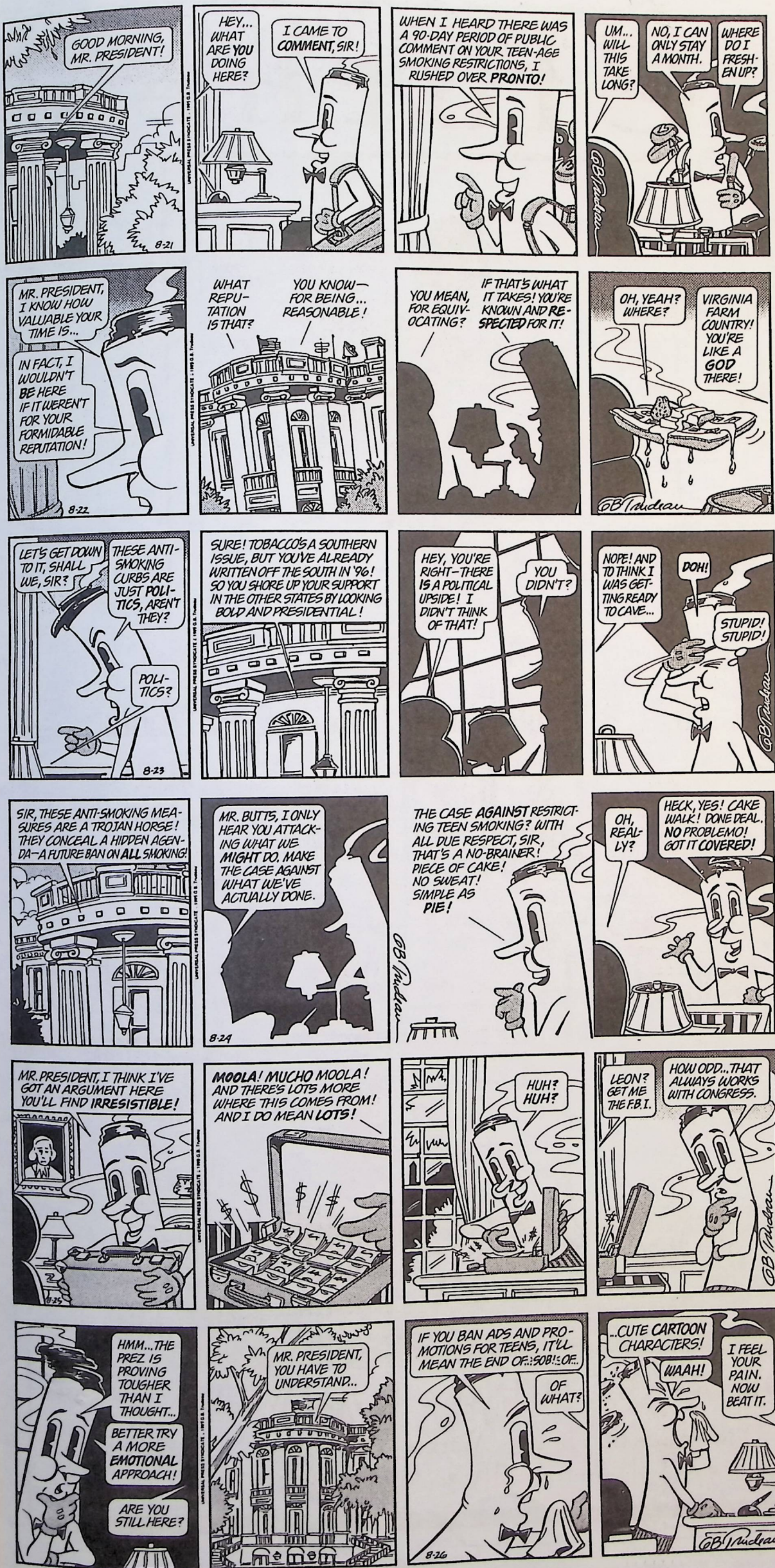
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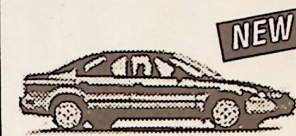
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